



President's Annual Report

2019-2020

Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses

P. O. Box 1233

Indooroopilly Qld 4068

Email: admin@centaurnursesfund.org.au

www.centaurnursesfund.org.au

ABN 68 670493663

Our Mission

To preserve, promote and maintain a living Memorial in honour and remembrance of Nurses who served in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) at home and abroad (and the terms pre the instigation of the name of the Australian Defence Force).

To honour the memory of the sinking of the 2/3 AHS Centaur off the Queensland coast on the 14th May 1943, the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses provides educational support and opportunities for nurses in the state of Queensland. The Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses was established in 1948.

The objectives of the Fund are to:

- 2.1 Promote the history and legacy of the sinking of the AHS Centaur.
- 2.2 Maintain links with organisations with similar mission and objectives.
- 2.3 Promote the values and work of nursing generally, in particular the ADF.
- 2.4 Raise funds that enable nursing research and education.
- 2.5 Convene an annual Centaur Memorial Service.

Welcome

Welcome to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2020, our inaugural Zoom AGM, due to the COVID-19 restrictions. At this time we think of all those across the world struggling with this pandemic and the impact on health across the world and the world economies. May we all work through this together, stay safe, and keep each other safe.

Annual Memorial Service

The 76th Anniversary Commemorative Service of the sinking of the 2/3 AHS *Centaur* was held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church Lutwyche on 14 May 2019. Our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, was represented by Acting Inspector Donna Stewart, Queensland Police Service. The Centaur Fellow address was given by Dr Linda Shields MD (Res), PhD, FACN, Centaur Fellow, titled 'They didn't die in vain – the importance of remembering the Centaur Nurses'. Dr Catriona Booker RN RM MN Leadership PhD FACN gave a Diary Reading: 'Excerpts from a Nurses' World War One Diary'. Both Dr Shields and Dr Booker are on the Committee of Management.

The Service was conducted by Rev. Sandra Kjellgren, Rector of St. Andrew's Anglican Church Lutwyche, where the Annual Commemorative Service has been held for 17 years, and the Sermon given by Rev. Sandra Kjellgren. Dr Kjellgren retired in October 2019 and we wish to acknowledge all she has done over these years in contributing to the Annual Service. We thank her for her tireless efforts for the Annual Service, and wish her well into the future.

The Brisbane Girls Grammar School Chamber singers with Acting Coordinator of Choirs, Ms Clare Finlayson, and Accompanist Ms Kathy Sander; the Naval Cadets: TS CENTAUR Maleny under direction of Commanding Officer Lieutenant Linda Vann ANC, and the Bugler Mrs Emily Tattam were in attendance. The Brisbane Boys College Pipe Band, were unfortunately not able to be present at this service.

Education Committee

Thank you to the Education Committee of Dr Marion Mitchell, who ably chairs that committee, for organising the application for Scholarship for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. Dr Judith Dean supports Dr Marion Mitchell on the Education Committee. The Committee of Management and the Education Committee wish to thank the panel for the significant role they play in assessing the annual scholarship applications, and for their willingness to assess

the Scholarship Applications for 2019. Professor Brigid M. Gillespie, Professor of Patient Safety, National Centre of Research Excellence in Nursing, Menzies Health Institute Queensland, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Griffith University; Professor Elizabeth Beattie RN, PhD, FGSA, Professor Faculty of Health, School of Nursing, Queensland University of Technology and Member of the Institute of Health Biomedical Innovation (IHBI); and Professor Linda Shields MD (Research), PhD, FACN, Centaur Fellow, MAICD, Member International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame of Sigma Theta Tau International. We are so grateful for the commitment and support they give to the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. This year the Committee of Management made the decision to reduce the scholarship amount for 2020 to \$5000 due to concerns about funding and our viability to maintain the scholarship into the future (more about that later). The standard of applications was maintained. We received a couple of applications in October 2019. 2020 is the 25th Anniversary of the award of the Centaur Scholarship to a Nurse or Midwife undertaking research and study for a PhD in a Nursing-Midwifery-History related subject. The PhD recipients are titled “Fellows”.

The Annual Scholarship will continue to be awarded on the advice of the Selection Panel which reports to the Committee of Management, through the Education Committee. The winner of the Centaur Scholarship 2020 is Mrs Suzanne Williams, for her application on ‘A collaborative implementation of acute paediatric pain management in the emergency department’. Suzanne is undertaking her PhD through QUT.

We were planning to have the scholarship recipients for 2018 Jessica Schults and 2019 Amanda Corley to present an update on their PhD studies, and Suzanne Williams the 2020 recipient, however due to COVID-19 challenges for health workers at this time, we made the decision that we would not add to their current workloads and so not have the presentations this year. We look forward to hearing the updates through the year and at the AGM next year.

Sincere thank you to our Selection Panel for the contribution you have made to Centaur through this valuable work.

Centaur Silver Medal

The Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses continues to support the presentation of a Silver Medal to the student who achieves the highest grade point average. Seven (7) universities are invited to receive this award annually. The recipients receive the Joy Croker Silver Centaur Medal to perpetuate the memory of the sinking of the 2/3 AHS *Centaur* on 14th May 1943. The recipients receive the medal and the history of the Centaur. The Silver Medal recipients during December 2018/ February 2020 are listed below.

University	Name	When sent/presented
Griffith	Zachary Horn	Feb 2019
USC	Nicole Wright	Dec 2018
ACU	Ruby Geddes	Dec 2019
QUT	Joyce Van	Feb 2020
CQU	Aislin Barry	Dec 2019
JCU	Luke Turkilsen	Dec 2018
JCU	Purdy Guest	Dec 2019

Update on the progress of the history of the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses

Dr Madonna Grehan has been continuing to study the history of the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses over this year. Dr Grehan has finalised the history up to 1975 which is in the State Library Queensland, and continues pursuing the last forty (40) plus years of the Fund. We thank Dr Grehan for all her contributions through this Fellowship. We have learned so much from her, through her blogs and advice.

Meetings of the Committee of Management

Meetings of the Committee of Management are held 2 monthly. Thanks to Dr Judith Dean who has organised a meeting link via Zoom to allow our Committee to be more easily present at the meetings. This has been great for those Committee members who are either out of Brisbane or not able to attend in person. And it has been very useful to be able to hold the AGM this year via the same medium. Thanks Judith for coordinating this for all of us.

We have continued with the change of venue for our Committee meetings, thanks to Mrs Sue de Vries' brother. We have been fortunate to be allowed to use the venue at Imagine Education at 170 Leichhardt Street Spring Hill over the last year which has been very helpful.

Committee 2019/2020

President: Julie Finucane OAM

Vice President: Dr Judith Dean

Honorary Secretary: Mrs Georgina Blomfield

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs. Sue de Vries

Committee Members:

Miss Pixie Annat MBE OAM

Professor Marion Mitchell

Mrs. Rosalie Lewis AM

Dr Catriona Booker

Mrs. Claire Lees

Mrs Joy Wilson

Professor Linda Shields

Dr Jill Campbell

Dr Carol Reid

Dr Snezana Stolic

Dr Sonya Osborne

Professor Mary Courtney

Thank you

The President wishes to formally thank the Committee for 2019/2020 for their consistent efforts for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. The Executive has changed during the 2019/2020 year. Dr Judith Dean has been the Vice-President and is working really well in the role, and is a great support to me in my role of President. Thanks also to Georgina Blomfield who has been working in the role of Honorary Secretary and Sue de Vries who has been in the

role of Honorary Treasurer this last year, both new into those roles. Georgina and Sue have been actively working on grant applications and they have been successful in gaining some funding, which will support our website maintenance from December 2020 to November 2021. Georgina is working on further grant applications, which will hopefully support our scholarship funding into the future. So thank you Georgina and Sue for the effort and success so far. It is a really positive step forward.

Three members have decided not to renominate for 2020 to 2021 Committee. They are: Professor Marion Mitchell; Professor Linda Shields; and Dr Jill Campbell. These three members are all Centaur Fellows. Special thanks to Professor Marion Mitchell who has been on the Committee for fifteen (15) years and a Centaur Fellow since 2004, and just wants to take a little break. It may have something to do with her husband Brian, who has also been very engaged with CMFN, and retired last year and I think she feels she is missing out on some of the good times that Brian is enjoying. She says she will be back. We all hope so. Marion has reactivated the Centaur Fellow Alumni and has been so engaged with the Scholarship work on the Education Committee, so special thanks Marion for all you have contributed over many years. Professor Linda Shields and a Centaur Fellow since 1999 retired from full time academic work last year, however she really has not retired and has commenced reviewing the governance requirements for CMFN, as one of her roles, and has been most engaged on the Committee for a number of years. In February 2018 she was instrumental in organising a service for Nursing commemoration in Bathurst, where General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK CVO MC in his role as Governor General attended. It was a very special service where a number of relatives of WW11 nurses were present, and four of the Centaur Committee attended, along with Linda. Thank you Linda for all you have done to support this work. Dr Jill Campbell joined the Committee after she was awarded the Scholarship in 2015 and became a Centaur Fellow in 2016. Thank you Jill for the contribution you have made to CMFN.

Thank you to the Committee and the Executive for all they have done to achieve the objectives of the Fund, and to grow the Fund into the future. We have a number of new members on the Committee which has allowed the Fund to explore other opportunities for growth. We have six (6) Centaur Fellows on the Committee of Management in 2019-2020.

Constitution

As discussed last year, the Committee has done a full review of the Constitution and submit draft version 1.4 for your consideration tonight.

Centaur Working Committee

We are really pleased to advise, we have been fortunate to have a younger set working committee who will assist in focussing on fund raising and providing a 'younger' view to the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses for functions and fundraising; the interest was fostered at the Centaur Dinner in May 2018.

- Catriona Booker (Chair and Centaur Committee)
- Carol Reid (Centaur Committee)
- Belynda Abbott
- Rachel Walker
- Bernadette Thomson
- Fiona Cameron
- Snezana Stolic (Centaur Committee)

We explored some opportunities for funding at a higher level, however the working committee in communication with the Committee of Management decided at this time, that funding

through movie nights or sausage sizzles may be more appropriate. We will explore bigger opportunities at a later time.

Events of note / Events held

Nurses Memorial Candlelight Vigil was held at 5.30pm for 6pm in Anzac Square on Wednesday 24 April 2019. It was a very special event with close to 300 attendees. The Brisbane Girls Grammar School Choir sang at the Vigil. The event was proudly supported by the Defence Service Nurses RSL Sub Branch Queensland, and Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. The Master of Ceremonies Squadron Leader Paul Lineham Rtd did a superb job.

The Vigil in 2019 was held in the refurbished Anzac Square. Our Soldier/Nurse statute has been relocated to a great spot, not far from where it was previously. This year in 2019, we were delighted to have His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland, in attendance. His Excellency the Governor addressed the gathering and spoke beautifully about the impact of the 2/3 AHS Centaur on Queensland and the importance of His Excellency's role as Patron of the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. His Excellency the Governor expressed his delight in the Vigil. The event is proudly supported by the Queensland Government from 2019 to 2022.

We were planning to hold the Vigil this Anzac Eve 2020. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions we needed to cancel this event for 2020. We look forward to holding the event in 2021, and will make it an even more special Vigil. The event will be proudly supported by the Queensland Government.

Anzac Day Parade in Brisbane – Army and nursing was close to the front of the parade in 2019. Our World War 11 Nurse Margaret Hamilton OAM passed away at 104.5yrs of age on the 9 February 2020. Margaret had led the parade on many occasions. She escaped the Fall of Singapore on the Empire Star, the ship that left shortly before the Vyner Brooke which was sunk. The Empire Star made it home safely to Freemantle WA. Margaret was the President of the Returned Sisters Sub Branch, later called the Defence Service Nurses RSL Sub Branch Queensland for many years and very active in the fundraising for the Australian Service Nurses National Memorial on Anzac Parade Canberra. Margaret was a great lady.

Annual Commemorative Service for the 76th Anniversary of the Sinking of the 2/3 AHS Centaur held on Tuesday 14 May 2019 as detailed above. We have also needed to cancel the Annual Service for 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Movie nights

We have held two (2) movie nights in the last twelve months, and these have proved to be really successful events, for networking and fundraising, and we will continue to hold these as fundraising opportunities. Thank you especially to those on the committee who worked so hard to make these events a success; namely Rosalie Lewis, Judith Dean, Sue de Vries and Catriona Booker and the rest of the committee. The first movie was 'Tolkien' and our latest movie was 'Military Wives' on the 12 March 2020. The evenings were enjoyed by all who attended. We sold out all available seats.

Membership

We have been working on increasing our membership and this will continue over the next twelve months.

Some exciting news

TS Centaur Cadets

Each year in December a number of the Committee attend the passing out parade for the TS Centaur Cadets from Maleny. It is a lovely event where the cadets demonstrate their skills, and receive awards on their performance through the year. Each year they attend our Annual Centaur Service, ably lead by LEUT Linda Vann ANC and her husband LEUT Eddie Vann who is now the Executive Director of the TS Centaur Cadets. In the last few weeks they were presented with a new boat by Defence. They informed us that they would like to call the boat 'Sister Ellen Savage GM'. Of course we were delighted with this and this request afforded an opportunity to find some of Sister Savage's family, which we have done and her family are delighted with this offer and fully support this. TS Centaur Cadets have been informed. Further information will be provided when this becomes available.

Centaur exhibition at the Shrine of Remembrance

This was being planned to open on 1 July 2020 at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne where it will be open for up to a year. Planning is still in place although the time for commencement is unknown at this stage. We will provide further advice as this becomes available.

In closing

Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2019-2020 President's report for the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses. Are there any questions or comments from the floor?

I would like to propose that the President's report be accepted.